





Iowa

This outline describes major sources of genealogical information about families from Iowa. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

HELPS FOR USING THIS RESEARCH OUTLINE

Before using this outline, you need to decide what you would like to learn about one of your ancestors, such as a birth date or a maiden name.

After you have decided what information you want to find, look at the Record Selection Table on pages two and three in this outline. Column 1 lists the kinds of information you may need and columns 2 and 3 suggest the best types of records for finding that information.

There is a section in this outline for each type of record. These sections give more information about the records and how to find them. The sections are listed in alphabetical order.

References to the Family History Library Catalog™

The Family History Library Catalog™ is a listing of all the records available at the Family History Library™. The catalog is available at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center™. Staff there can help you learn to use the catalog.

This outline gives instructions for finding information in the catalog. For example, in the section of this outline called "Census," you may find the following statement:

For more information about census records, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - CENSUS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
CENSUS

This statement tells you to look in the catalog under:

- Iowa, and then the subject CENSUS.
- A county in Iowa, and then the subject CENSUS.
- A town in a county in Iowa, and then the subject CENSUS.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers and computer numbers and are listed in parentheses.

- *Call Numbers*. The call number is used to find a record in the Family History Library (FHL).
- *Computer Numbers*. Each record is assigned a number to identify it in the catalog. If you are using the Family History Library Catalog on computer or compact disc, you can search for the record by the computer number. This is the quickest way to find the catalog listing of the record.

For additional information on using the catalog, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

References to Other Family History Library Publications

The Family History Library has many other publications that may help you in your research. Some are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their order numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library, the Salt Lake Distribution Center and on the Internet at www.familysearch.org.

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RECORD SELECTION TABLE: IOWA

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for research from 1800 to the present.

Step 1. Choose an ancestor you would like to know more about. Decide what new information you would like to learn about that person. This new information is your research goal.

Step 2. In column 1 of this table, find the goal you selected.

Step 3. In column 2 of this table, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need; then read the sections in this outline about those types of records.

Step 4. Look in the Family History Library Catalog™ and choose a specific record to search.

Step 5. Look at the record.

Step 6. If you do not find the information you need, go to column 3 and search those record types.

Note: Records of previous research (Genealogy, Locality Search, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals, but they are not listed unless they are *especially* helpful.

1. If You Need	2. Search These Record Types First	3. Search These Record Types Next
Adoptions	Probate Records, Court Records, Obituaries	Census, Societies, Church Records, Probate Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Obituaries, Naturalization and Citizenship
Birth date	Vital Records, Church Records, Cemeteries	Bible Records, Obituaries, Military Records
Birth place	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Obituaries, Genealogy, Military Records
Boundaries and origins	History, Maps	Gazetteers, Historical Geography
Children	Census, Probate Records, Obituaries, Genealogy	Bible Records, Vital Records, Church Records, Land and Property
City or parish of foreign birth	Vital Records, Naturalization and Citizenship	Obituaries, Church Records
Country of foreign birth	Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Obituaries	Military Records, Vital Records, Church Records
Death information	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records	Bible Records, Church Records, Obituaries
Divorce	Court Records, Vital Records, Divorce Records	Newspapers
Ethnic background	Minorities, Native Races, Census	Societies, Church Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Historical background	History, Periodicals, Biography	Minorities
Immigration date	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Emigration and Immigration	Newspapers, Obituaries, Genealogy
Living relatives	Genealogy, Directories, Obituaries	Census, Church Records, Probate Records
Maiden name	Vital Records, Church Records, Bible Records	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Obituaries

Marriage information	Vital Records, Church Records, Census, Divorce Records	Bible Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Land and Property
Naturalization	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Obituaries, Land and Property (sometimes in homestead records)
Occupations	Census, Directories, Land and Property	Court Records, Obituaries, Military Records
Other family members	Census, Probate Records, Obituaries	Bible Records, Genealogy, Land and Property
Parents	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Probate Records, Obituaries, Land and Property
Physical description	Military Records, Biography, Emigration and Immigration	Naturalization and Citizenship (after Sept. 1906), Vital Records, Genealogy
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps, Historical Geography	History, Periodicals
Places of residence	Census, Land and Property, Genealogy	Military Records, Obituaries, Directories
Place of residence when you know only the state	Census (indexed), Genealogy, Military Records, Vital Records, and other records with a statewide index	Biography, Probate Records, History, Obituaries, Directories
Previous research	Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies	History, Biography
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries	Periodicals
Religion	Church Records, Biography	Cemeteries, Obituaries
Social activities	History, Biography, Newspapers	

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives and libraries often have maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids. They frequently have collections of previous research, such as family and local histories and biographies. Many have record-finding aids, such as guides to their own collections or inventories of records housed elsewhere in the state.

The following organizations have major collections or services for genealogical researchers:

State Historical Society of Iowa
(formerly known as Iowa Historical Society or
Iowa State Department of History and Archives)
Library and Archives
600 East Locust
Des Moines, IA 50319
Telephone: 515-281-6412 or 515-281-3007
Fax: 515-282-0502
Internet address:
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dca>

The Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Iowa primarily collects manuscript records of the state, including government, land, and military records. They also have family histories in book and manuscript form.

State Historical Society of Iowa
Library
Centennial Building
402 Iowa Avenue
Iowa City, IA 52240-1806
Telephone: 319-335-3916
Fax: 319-335-3935
Internet address:
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dca>

The State Historical Society of Iowa Library has manuscript records as well as numerous published sources, censuses, and newspapers. A helpful guide to these sources:

Harris, Katherine, comp., *Guide to Manuscripts*.
Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1973.
(FHL book 977.7 A3i; computer number 174788.)

National Archives—Central Plains Region (Kansas City)
2312 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64131-3060
Telephone: 816-926-6920
Fax: 816-926-6982
Internet address:
<http://www.nara.gov/regional/kansas.html>

The National Archives branch in Kansas City has the records of regional federal offices for Iowa,

Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, including the following:

- Federal naturalization records
- Bureau of Indian Affairs and other American Indian records
- Copies of federal census, military, and immigration records

Iowa Genealogical Society
6000 Douglas Ave.
P.O. Box 7735
Des Moines, IA 50322
Telephone: 515-276-0287
Internet address:
<http://www.digiserve.com/igs/igs.htm>

To find other archives and libraries with collections of Iowa records, look in the directories listed in the "Archives and Libraries" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed.

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Iowa counties, use the 11 inventories of county archives published by the Historical Records Survey from 1938 to 1942. They are available for Carroll, Cherokee, Dallas, Dubuque, Ida, Jasper, Montgomery, Polk, Sac, Taylor, and Woodbury Counties. The Family History Library has all of these, except for Carroll and Sac counties. Check the "Author/Title Search" of the Family History Library Catalog under Historical Records Survey (Iowa).

A 1978 project by the Iowa State Historical Society created inventories for 13 additional counties. The Family History Library has copies of these inventories for Allamakee, Dubuque, Franklin, Iowa, Osceola, and Ringgold Counties.

Inventories of archive and library collections are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers to:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.

- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Iowa in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most information is available at no cost. *Remember that addresses on the Internet change frequently.* The following sites are important gateways that can link you to many more network and bulletin-board sites:

- FamilySearch® Internet Genealogical Service
<http://www.familysearch.org>
This Web site from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Department is useful for learning of other organizations, researchers and projects related to genealogical research.
- Cyndi's List
<http://www.cyndislist.com/ia.htm>
This Web site is one of the best places on the Internet for links to other Iowa genealogical sites and resources.
- USGenWeb
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iagenweb/>
This is a cooperative volunteer effort to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county and state in the United States.
- Roots-L
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ia.html>
Roots-L is a useful list of sites and resources. It includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the "Archives and Libraries" section of the *United States Research Outline*.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with the FamilySearch® program. Most of the FamilySearch records are also found on the Internet at www.familysearch.org. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names and is a good place to begin your search. Some of the records come from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and on personal computers.

BIBLE RECORDS

Bibles were often given to a bride as a wedding gift, and families often recorded information in them about their immediate family and close relatives. Bible records may include birth, marriage, and death dates; parents' names' and names of children and their spouses, including maiden names. The age of a person may be given at the time of death. Many families kept Bible records from 1850 to more recent times; however, few records have survived. Some have been donated to local libraries or societies or you may need to contact descendants to locate the family Bible.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have transcribed some Iowa Bible records. Some are included in:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Bible Records*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL film 851218 item 6; computer number 280536.)

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL films 850405-409, 851208-220, 850411-2; computer numbers 277655, 277811, and others.) This collection, filmed at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., consists of probate (transcripts), obituary, Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, and death records. The collection is in several parts and is listed in the Family History Library Catalog in the "Author-Title Search" under Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes. A surname index to the above collection is:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken from Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah*. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.) For records from Iowa, see part two, pages 51-65. This work is a partial surname index to the DAR *Genealogical Collection* mentioned on page 7.

The State Historical Society of Iowa (see address in "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline) has copies of the DAR *Genealogical Collection* in 85 volumes. The society also has a short reference guide that indicates which volumes contain information

about specific counties. This guide is available at the Family History Library:

Some Iowa Vital Records. Des Moines: Iowa Historical Society Library, 1961. (FHL Book 977.7 A3h, fiche 6050306; computer number 242654.)

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Family Bible Records, A-Z*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1023889 items 2-9; computer number 191581.) The original records are in Des Moines at the State Historical Society of Iowa, where they have a large collection of family Bible records.

Burgess, Jo Ann, and Rita Goranson, comps. *Bible Records from Iowa Libraries and Museums*. 5 vols. Iowa: N.p., 1977. (FHL book 977.7 D29b v. 1; film 1036785 item 3; computer number 79720.) These volumes contain transcripts of Bible records in genealogical periodicals and books. There is an index to volumes 1-3 in:

Wimberly, Vera Meek. *Bible Records*. Conroe, Tex.: Montgomery County Genealogical and Historical Society, 1980. (FHL book 977.7 D29b index; computer number 572948.)

Many Bible records are published in periodicals. In the "Periodicals" section of this outline, see *PERiodical Source Index* (PERSI).

Other collections and transcriptions of Bible records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - BIBLE RECORDS

BIOGRAPHY

Biographies provide useful genealogical information, such as an individual's birth date and place (including foreign birthplace, where applicable); names of family members; wife's maiden name; parents' names; occupation and education; and social, political, and religious affiliation. They may also contain a physical description, previous residences, and immigration information. Biographies are the product of family knowledge or previous research often compiled about the early settlers and prominent citizens of the state, county, or town. Many lesser-known individuals may have biographical sketches written about them, especially in local histories.

An index to over 44,000 early pioneers named in 120 Iowa county histories is:

Morford, Charles. *Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa*. Baltimore, Md.: Gateway

Press, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 D32m; computer number 14288.)

A similar index with about 8,000 names is:

Foresman, Sherry. *Iowa Biography Index*. Menlo, Iowa: State of Iowa Lending and Research Library, 1986. (FHL book 977.7 D22i; fiche 6125666; computer number 465444.)

The State Historical Society in Des Moines and the Family History Library have three important biography collections about Iowa residents:

Citizens Historical Association (Indianapolis, Indiana). *Biographical Sketches of Iowans*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 985407-409; computer number 313104.) These sketches are alphabetical and were compiled between 1938 and the 1940s.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Biographical Data Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023885-89 and 1023620; computer number 190897.) This collection consists of alphabetical personal-history surveys.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Biography Files*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023616 item 2 and 1023617-19; computer number 190898.) These files are alphabetized folders of newspaper clippings and correspondence.

Two representative biographical encyclopedias are:

A *Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*. 2 vols. Reprint of 1896 edition, Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1978. (FHL book 977.7 D3m; film 1033791 items 2-3; fiche 6051365; computer number 71632; also film 934926 item 6; computer number 279337.)

Gue, Benjamin F., and Benjamin Franklin Shambaugh. *Biographies and Portraits of the Progressive Men of Iowa: Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions, Together with an Original and Authentic History of the State*. 2 vols. Des Moines: Conaway and Shaw, 1899. (FHL book 977.7 D3b; film 934927 items 2-3; fiche 6051353; computer number 241525.)

The following gazetteer contains biographical information:

Hair, James T., *Iowa State Gazetteer*. (Cited fully in the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.)

See also the "Genealogy" and "History" sections of the *United States Research Outline* for helpful nationwide indexes such as:

- *Family Finder Index*.
- *Old Surname File*.
- *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (for prominent persons).

The Family History Library has many biographical publications and histories with biographical information. They are generally listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - BIOGRAPHY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - BIOGRAPHY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY

CEMETERIES

Cemetery tombstones, or sexton's records, may give birth and death dates, age at death, name of spouse, names of children, and maiden names. Less often, they contain birth places. Tombstones may have symbols or insignias indicating military service and social or religious affiliations. Also, family members may be buried in the same plot or nearby.

There are several major collections of Iowa cemetery records created by various organizations that transcribed tombstones and sexton's records. Search each collection because no collection includes all the cemeteries, although there is some duplication. Some of the collections include the following:

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Cemetery and Grave Registration Project of the W.P.A. and D.A.R.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 21 FHL films beginning with 1022211; computer number 190894.) This is the most comprehensive cemetery collection for Iowa. The records are listed by county and then alphabetically by the names of persons buried in that county.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023603 items 6-13 to 1023609 items 1-10; computer number 190895.) These records were filmed at Des Moines, Iowa. The cemeteries are listed by county, starting with Adair County. The records give location, history, and a physical description of most cemeteries. Headstones are listed by rows.

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Iowa Genealogical Data*. vols. 1–24, 41–62. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 10 FHL film beginning with 851208 item 8; computer number 277811.) The DAR Library in Washington, D.C., contains Iowa volumes 1–24, 41–62. (For volumes 33–34, 36–39, see the collection below.) Most volumes are indexed. The State Historical Society of Iowa (see the address in “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline) has a collection of 85 DAR volumes. There is also a short guide indicating which volumes contain information about specific counties. (See the “Bible Records” section of this outline for the library call number of the guide.)

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Iowa Grave Records and Genealogical Data, 1800–1900*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 4 FHL films beginning with 1023114 item 11; computer number 595496.) Information is by county. This set contains DAR volumes 1–4, 7, 9–10, 12–15, 33–34, 36–39, 41, 44–46, 49, 53, 56, and 80. Use this collection with the one above because many of the volumes missing here are in the above collection.

For Iowa soldiers who died in other states, see:

Iowa. War Records Survey. Graves Registration Division. *Iowa Veterans Buried Out of State*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 10 FHL films beginning with 1023908; computer number 191576.)

A project to locate all cemeteries in Iowa is published in:

Iowa Cemetery Locations: Regions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 1, 2, and 5. 8 vols. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa Genealogical Society, 1990. (FHL book 977.7 V3i; computer number 463801.) Each volume of this series covers one region and includes county maps showing cemetery locations. Many of the cemetery records listed have been published by the Iowa Genealogical Society and are available at the Family History Library.

Many cemetery records are published in periodicals. See the “Periodicals” section of this outline for indexes to major periodicals.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

IOWA - CEMETERIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

CENSUS

Census records from 1850 on can show names of each member of the household, his or her age, state or country of birth, occupation and race. Censuses can also give clues about marital status, marriage dates, death dates, immigration and naturalization information, migration patterns, previous residence, adoptions, and divorces. (See the *United States Research Outline* for more details.) Censuses for 1840 and earlier list only heads of families.

Most families were listed when a census taker made his visits, making these records rich in clues. Other persons in the county with the same surname may be related to each other. Statewide indexes can also help to locate families when only the state where they lived is known.

Federal Censuses

Federal censuses for the state of Iowa begin with 1850 and were taken every ten years through 1990. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information about nationwide census records and indexes.

Many federal census records are at the following archives:

- State Historical Society (in Des Moines and Iowa City)
- The Family History Library (Iowa censuses from 1850 to 1920)
- The National Archives
- Other federal and state archives

The 1890 census schedules for Iowa and most other states were destroyed in a fire on 21 January 1921 at the Commerce Department in Washington, D.C.

The 1850, 1860, and 1870 federal censuses have statewide, head-of-household indexes (in books). These were compiled by various organizations. If an ancestor does not appear in one index, check another for the same year as the handwriting may not have been deciphered correctly.

The 1880 (partial), 1900, and 1920 censuses have Soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm.

The 1910 census does not have a Soundex index for Iowa; however, if you know the town or city where your ancestor lived, you can find the appropriate county, enumeration district number, and Family History Library film number by looking in the following source:

Buckway, Eileen G., comp. *U. S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages*. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340; computer number 678265.)

Mortality Schedules, 1850–1880

The 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses have mortality schedules. These schedules list the names of persons who died during the year preceding the census. Mortality schedules contain information on a person's age, state or country of birth, month of death, cause of death, number of days ill, race, occupation, and for 1880, parents' birthplaces.

The State Historical Society in Des Moines and Iowa City and the Family History Library have copies of the mortality schedules.

- 1850 (FHL film 1421006; computer number 451131)
- 1860 (FHL film 1421007; computer number 288910)
- 1870 (FHL films 1421008-10; computer number 451141)
- 1880 (FHL films 1421011-14; computer number 451143)

Like the census, these records are arranged by county and then by town.

The 1850 census mortality schedule has been indexed in:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Iowa 1850 Mortality*. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1987. (FHL book 977.7 X2j 1850; computer number 450369.)

Territorial Censuses

Territorial census enumerations were taken for the following years (although in most cases only records of a few counties have survived):

- Wisconsin Territory: 1836 and 1838
- Iowa Territory: 1840, 1844, and 1846

The above censuses give the name of the head of household and the county of residence.

The 1840 territorial census also provides the name of the head of household and the number of males and females with age indications: under 5, 5–10, 10–15, 15–20, 20–30, and ten-year increments to 100 plus.

Indexes to the territorial censuses for 1836, 1838, 1840, and 1841–1846 are available in book form at the Family History Library.

State Censuses

State censuses were taken from 1846 to 1925 and give the following information:

- The state censuses taken through 1854 list: heads of households, and the number of males and females by age groups.
- The 1854 census also indicates race, citizenship, militia status and whether the person is registered to vote.

State censuses were taken in the following years:

- 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844 (Keokuk County)
- 1846 (Louisa, Polk, and Wapello Counties)
- 1847, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854
- 1856 (statewide, by county)
- 1881 (Mason City, Cerro Gordo County)
- 1882 (town of Keokuk, Lee County)
- 1885 (statewide)
- 1888 (town of Algona, Kossuth County)
- 1889 (town of Cherokee, Cherokee County)
- 1891 (town of Emmetsburg, Palo Alto County, town of Spencer, Clay County, town of Villisca, Montgomery County)
- 1892 (town of Carroll, Carroll County, town of Eagle Grove, Wright County, town of Estherville, Emmett County, town of Greene, Jefferson County, and town of Tama, Tama County)
- 1893 (town of Mystic, Appanoose County, town of Hampton, Franklin County, town of Ames, Story County, town of Bloomfield, Davis County, town of Nevada, Story County, and town of West Union, Fayette County)
- 1895 (statewide)
- 1905 (statewide)
- 1915 (statewide, alphabetical by county)
- 1925 (statewide)

The following indexes are available for 1841 to 1859:

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Iowa Census Records, 1841-1849*. 2 vols. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1979, 1981. (FHL book 977.7 X22i 1841-1849; fiche 6019963 [vol. 1]; computer number 2818.)

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Iowa Census Records, 1851 to 1859*. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1981. (FHL book 977.7 X2i 1851-1859; computer number 453831.)

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Iowa 1852*. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1988. (FHL book 977.7 X22io 1852; computer number 482768.)

For 1856 a census substitute for many cities in Iowa is:

Sopp, Elsie L. *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., 1980. (FHL book 977.7 D42s; computer number 57070.)

The 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925 Iowa census records list each person in the household and give the following information:

1856 - Name, sex, age, birthplace, marital status, length of residence, race, citizenship, native or naturalized voter, occupation, militia status, years of residence in Iowa, land ownership, disability, economic status, and agriculture or manufacturing information.

1885 - Name, address, age, race, marital status, occupation, state or country of birth, county of birth (if born in Iowa), native or foreign parentage, military service eligibility and whether they are registered to vote. If the person is an alien, it also lists whether he or she has applied for citizenship.

1895 - Name, age, race, marital status, state or country of birth, occupation, religious affiliation, military service eligibility, whether they are registered to vote, citizenship status, births and deaths in 1894, and Civil War service (and unit).

1905 - There is a card for each person, and the cards are arranged by county. They contain: name, city, ward, post office address, sex, race, age, state or country of birth, parents' state or country of birth, home or farm ownership, estimated property value, mortgage debt, citizenship status, years of residence in the United States and in Iowa, marital status, occupation, and military service (war and unit, with dates of

enlistment and discharge). Note: some of the cards are difficult to read.

1915 - Name, age, race, marital status, citizenship status, years in the United States and in Iowa, occupation, education, state or country of birth, home or farm ownership, military service (war and unit), religious affiliation, and parents' state or country of birth.

1925 - Name, relationship to head of family, race, age, marital status, home ownership or rental information, citizenship status, years in the United States and in Iowa, education, state or country of birth, father's name, state or country of birth and age, mother's full maiden name, state or country of birth and age, and parents' place of marriage.

For the 1925 census, there is an index for the following cities: Boone, Cedar Falls, Centerville, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Dubuque, Ottumwa, Sioux City, Waterloo, Davenport, and Des Moines. Under each city, residents are listed alphabetically. You can find this information in:

1925 Iowa State Census Index. [Des Moines]: State of Iowa, Department of General Services, Records Management Division, Micrographics Section, 1980. (On 29 FHL films beginning with 1430705; computer number 436267.)

Iowa state censuses are available at:

- The State Historical Society in Des Moines and the Family History Library (Iowa censuses through 1925).
- The State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City (all Iowa censuses except 1905).

For further information about state censuses of Iowa, see:

Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1992. (FHL book 973 X2Lai; computer number 669024.)

Census schedules and their indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - CENSUS
IOWA - CENSUS - [YEAR]
IOWA - CENSUS - [YEAR] - INDEXES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS - [YEAR]
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CENSUS - [YEAR]

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records have been kept in Iowa since the 1830s. Information from church records varies greatly, depending upon the denomination and the record keeper. Records may contain such information about members of the congregation as age, dates of baptism, christening, or birth, marriage information, wife's maiden name, and death dates. Records may include names of other relatives who were witnesses at church events or members of the congregation. The members of some churches were predominately of one nationality or ethnic group. Knowing this may help you find the foreign town from which your ancestors immigrated.

Early churches in Iowa included the following:

- Before 1900 the largest religious groups were the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches.
- The Society of Friends (Quakers) and other small groups were also early settlers.

The Family History Library has:

- Records of churches, including Catholic, Presbyterian and the Society of Friends (see the Family History Library Catalog).
- Histories of denominations in Iowa, including Mennonite, Congregational, Quaker, Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Methodist-Episcopal.

A useful list of books and articles about the various religious groups of Iowa is found on pages 116–125 in:

Petersen, William J. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.)

Many denominations have collected and stored their records in central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

Baptist

North American Baptist Conference
1 South 210 Summit Ave.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
Telephone: 630-495-2000
Fax: 630-495-0333

Lutheran

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Wartburg Theological Seminary
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, IA 52001
Telephone: 319-589-0200
Fax: 319-589-0333

The Wartburg Theological Seminary has Lutheran records from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and upper Michigan. Many of the records in this repository can be borrowed for a small fee. For a list of some of the records, see:

ALC Archives. *ALC Congregations on Microfilm*. Dubuque, Iowa: The Archives, [197-?]. (FHL fiche 6330690–93; computer number 170040.) The list is alphabetical by state and then by city. Fiche 6330690 has records from Iowa.

American Lutheran Church Shelf List Index to Their Church Records Microfilmed as of 1987. N. p., 1988. (FHL book 973 K2aL; computer number 522728.)

Methodist

Iowa Wesleyan College Library
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
Telephone: 319-385-6317
Fax: 319-385-6324
Internet address:
<http://www.iwc.edu/library/libhp.html>

You can find two of the library's collections in:

Iowa Churches: A File at the Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 956387–417; computer number 311771.) This file consists of church histories, anniversary programs, and newspaper clippings. It is arranged by towns or by the name of the church.

Ministerial Biographies: A File in the Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 956418–42; computer number 311493.) These films contain biographies, mainly of Methodist ministers.

Presbyterian

The Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

Many of the biographies and church records of this society have been microfilmed. The society and the Family History Library are continuing to collect Iowa Presbyterian church records.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
World Headquarters
P. O. Box 1059
Independence, MO 64051
Telephone: 816-833-1000
Fax: 816-521-3089
Internet address: www.rlds.org

Records of most Iowa congregations of this church have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library.

Roman Catholic

Diocese of Davenport
2706 N. Gaines St.
Davenport, IA 52804
Telephone: 319-324-1911
Fax: 319-324-5842

Diocese of Sioux City
1821 Jackson Street
Sioux City, IA 51105
Telephone: 712-255-7933
Fax: 712-233-7598

Diocese of Des Moines
610 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Telephone: 515-243-7653
Fax: 515-237-5070

Society of Friends

Friends Historical Library
Swarthmore College
500 College Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081
Telephone: 610-328-8496
Fax: 610-328-7329
Internet address: <http://www.swarthmore.edu>

Magill Library
Haverford College
Haverford, PA 19041-1392
Telephone: 610-896-1161
Fax: 610-896-1102
Internet address: <http://www.haverford.edu>

Two collections of the Iowa Society of Friends records are:

Hinshaw, William Wade. *Index to Iowa Quaker Meeting Records*. 11 vols. N.p., 19--? (FHL book 977.7 K28h; films 924025-27; fiche 6051154; computer number 242150.)

Hinshaw, William Wade. *The William Wade Hinshaw Index to Quaker Meeting Records in the Friends Library in Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1957. (FHL films 002146-213, and 175409-13; computer number 98325.) Film 002148 has an index to surnames and indicates in which monthly meetings those surnames are found. These microfilms contain records of many Iowa monthly meetings.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists church records under:

IOWA - CHURCH RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CHURCH RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS

COURT RECORDS

Iowa court records have been kept since 1827. The names of many Iowa residents are listed in civil court records, where information exists about property disputes, divorce, estate settlements and other disputes. These courts also handled criminal matters. Court order books and case files may list a person's age, residence, occupation, and family relationships. Sometimes friends and neighbors gave depositions as witnesses of events that occurred.

Major Iowa courts that kept records of genealogical value were:

County courts, 1851-1868. These county-wide courts had jurisdiction over lesser civil and criminal matters, such as probates, marriage licenses, and liquor permits. In 1868 the circuit court took over the duties from the county court. Many of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

Circuit courts, 1868-1887. These county-wide courts had jurisdiction over juvenile, criminal, and civil cases. From about 1869 to 1887 this court handled probate cases. Circuit courts were abolished in 1887 and their jurisdiction was given to district courts. Many circuit court records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

District courts, 1836-present. These courts have district-wide jurisdiction over probate, criminal, and civil cases. The records include chancery, trespass, debt, and assault cases. Many district court records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

Municipal courts, primarily 1900s. These courts have city-wide jurisdiction, concurrent with district courts, over misdemeanors and minor civil matters. The Family History Library does not have these records.

Justice of the peace courts, 1839-present. These courts have district-wide jurisdiction over minor misdemeanors, search warrants, and town or city ordinance violations. Some of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

Supreme Court, 1838-present. This is Iowa's highest court, and is also a court of appeals. The Family History Library does not have these records.

You can also obtain copies of court records by contacting the appropriate clerk's office.

To learn more about courts and their records, study one of the Historical Records Survey county courthouse inventories, such as:

Inventory of the County Archives of Iowa, No. 18, Cherokee County (Cherokee). Des Moines: Historical Records Survey, 1939. (FHL book 977.717 A3h; film 897358 item 2; computer number 243141.)

Court records can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - COURT RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS

DIRECTORIES

City and county directories are similar to present-day telephone books and are useful for locating people. They were often published annually, listing heads of households and employed household members, their occupations, and addresses. They can be together used with census records or as substitutes for them.

Directories are particularly helpful for research in large cities, where a high percentage of the people were renters, new arrivals, or temporary residents. In fact, they may be the only source that lists an ancestor if he or she was not registered to vote, did not attend church, or did not own property. Most households were included because the directories were created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting the residents of an area. Directories are also useful tools for studying occupations and migration patterns.

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Iowa. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of Des Moines directories for:

- 1866–1935. (On FHL films beginning with 1376808; computer number 657186.)
- 1942, 1960, 1965, 1972, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1990. (FHL book 977.758 E4pd; computer number 224066.)

Some statewide directories, such as the following, list names:

Farmers of Iowa: A List of Farmers of Each County with Postoffice. N.p., 1892. (FHL film 1024846 item 4; computer number 352430.)

Hair, James T. *Iowa State Gazetteer.* (Cited fully in the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.)

Seven metropolitan Iowa areas have published name directories for 1856. An index to them is:

Sopp, Elsie L. *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa.* Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. (FHL book 977.7 D42s; computer number 57070.)

Directories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - DIRECTORIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - DIRECTORIES

DIVORCE RECORDS

Divorce records have been kept since about 1834, when the first Iowa county was formed. They may provide: a person's age, the divorce date, maiden name of wife, marriage date and place, occupation, childrens' names, names of other family members, and places the family lived. Early divorce proceedings are in the district court of each county, and beginning in 1906, transcribed copies of divorce records were sent to the state.

The Family History Library has copies of the following divorce records:

- Prior to 1906 (a few counties)
- 1906–mid 1900s (many counties)

In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, divorce records are listed under:

IOWA, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE RECORDS

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Iowa has no ports; consequently, many Iowa residents immigrated through ports in New York, New Orleans, or Canada. Passenger lists since 1820 may contain a person's age, the state or country of birth, immigration date, occupation, names of children. After 29 July 1906, the passenger lists also contain a physical description.

The principal groups that came to Iowa from the early 1800s to the early 1900s were:

- 1788-1810. The first European settlers in Iowa were French-Canadians, who worked in the lead mines near present-day Dubuque.
- 1833-50. The Black Hawk Treaty of 1833 opened most of Iowa to white settlement. Southern Iowa immigration began as the American government negotiated treaties extinguishing the remaining Indian claims. Settlers came from other states, particularly Kentucky and Tennessee. Northern Iowa immigration came primarily from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and the Middle Atlantic and New England states.
- 1850-60. The population of Iowa nearly tripled. Ohio and Indiana contributed more settlers than all other states and immigration from Europe increased. Among the many German immigrants were the Amana colonists, who settled in Iowa in 1855 after having first lived near Buffalo, New York. Many immigrants arrived from Britain and Ireland.
- Late 1800s. Many Scandinavians immigrated.
- Early 1900s. Small groups of Austro-Hungarians and Italians arrived.

Routes to Iowa

Many early settlers of Iowa came by way of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The main steamboat route from the Middle Atlantic states and the Southern states followed the Ohio River and the Mississippi River to Keokuk.

The westward migration of Latter-day Saints opened an overland trail from the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs which was still used by covered wagons long after the railroad first reached the Mississippi in 1854.

Until 1850 most overseas immigrants came through the ports of New Orleans or New York. After 1850 most European settlers came through ports in New York or Canada.

For detailed information about federal immigration sources, including Canadian border-crossing records, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

GAZETTEERS

Gazetteers list geographical names such as towns, settlements, rivers, mountains, villages, and districts. They also identify these locations and sometimes give historical and biographical information concerning early residents.

Several helpful lists of Iowa place names have been published, including:

Hair, James T. *Iowa State Gazetteer*. Chicago: Bailey & Hair, 1865. (FHL book 977.7 E4h; film 1024846 item 5 and film 982200 item 2; computer number 236479.) This gazetteer contains some limited biographical information. There are also lists of occupations, the names of people employed in that occupation and the cities where these people lived.

Mott, David C. *Abandoned Towns, Villages, and Post Offices of Iowa*. Council Bluffs, Iowa: J. W. Hoffman and S. L. Purington Publishing, 1973. (FHL book 977.7 E2m; film 973276 item 2 and film 967574 item 5; fiche 6051149; computer number 241550.)

R. L. Polk and Company. *Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory*. St. Paul, Minn.: Polk; A.C. Danser, 1882-1883. (FHL film 989449 item 9 for 1882-1883 ed.; film 1007937 item 3 for 1884-1885 ed.; computer number 379001.)

Ramsey, Guy Reed. *Postmarked Iowa: A List of Discontinued and Renamed Post Offices*. Crete, Neb.: J-B Publishing Co., 1976. (FHL book 977.7 E5r; computer number 222715.)

Gazetteers are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - GAZETTEERS
IOWA - NAMES GEOGRAPHICAL

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These collections often contain birth, marriage, and death information, as well as family histories. You may wish to write to these organizations for help in your search. Sometimes their collections must be searched in person.

Nationwide Indexes

You can find information about people of Iowa in important nationwide genealogical indexes listed in the "Introduction," "Census," "Genealogy," and "Periodicals" sections of the *United States Research Outline*.

Statewide Collections and Indexes

See the "Biography" and "History" sections of this outline for important sources containing biographical and genealogical information. For example, the State Historical Society in Des Moines has over 8,000 family genealogies.

The Family History Library also has excellent statewide collections, including the following:

The Iowa Genealogical Society Surname Index, 5 vols. Des Moines: Iowa Genealogical Society, 1973-90. (FHL book 977.7 D2i; computer number 189225.) These indexes sometimes have names of ancestors back to the 1600s. They list genealogical information for more than 100,000 ancestors of members of the Iowa Genealogical Society.

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Surname Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 31 FHL films beginning with 1487493; computer number 537711.) This index of 3" x 5" cards gives information about ancestors of Iowa Genealogical Society members, sometimes back to the 1600s.

Surname Index, 1500-1991. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (On eight FHL films beginning with 1766048; computer number 651881.) The Iowa Genealogical Society has this collection. These cards are similar to the ones in the collection mentioned above.

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Pioneer Certificates, 1800s-1991*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 14 FHL films beginning with 1508882; computer number 537709.) This collection includes pedigree charts, family group forms, wills, marriage records, family histories, and land records. The information is arranged alphabetically.

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. For information about this extensive collection, including film numbers and a partial index to it, see the "Bible Records" section of this outline.

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Iowa Pioneer Families*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL films 851218 items 3-5, 7-9 and 851219 items 1-2; computer number

280450.) This publication contains eight volumes prepared in the 1940s and 1950s.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Family Record Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On six FHL films 1023611 item 11, through 1023616; computer number 388668.) This alphabetical collection contains extensive genealogies, pedigrees, and family histories.

Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. *Century Farm Applications*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023895-902; computer number 190888.) This work contains applications from the owners of farms whose property had remained within the family for 100 years or longer. These records are arranged by county and then alphabetically by the name of the applicant. The names of previous owners, their relationship to the present owner, and a history of the family now owning the farm are usually given. The original documents are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Fifty Year Iowa Farm Families*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1023893-94; computer number 190885.) This work contains lists of owners of farms whose property had remained within the family for 50 years or longer. These records are arranged by county and list the name of the owner, the city or town where the farm was located and the year of purchase.

State Historical Society (Iowa City, Iowa). *Essay Contest, 1923*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 986175-82; computer number 388557.) This is a collection of essays by high school students about their grandparents, old settlers, or their community. It includes an index to ancestors and an index by town and county. (FHL film 986175.)

Gilman, Aloys. *Unpublished Genealogies in the Iowa Historical Library: Manuscript, Typed or Carbon Copies*. N.p., 19--. (FHL book 977.7 A3ga; fiche 6046633; computer number 241523.) This book was prepared in 1968 and is a list of genealogies. It gives the surname of the family, the name of the compiler, the date compiled and the number of pages.

Charts and Genealogies of Pioneer Families of Iowa. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL 908960 item 4; computer number 241030.) These records are in alphabetical order and were compiled by Mrs. F. A. Gordon. They contain genealogies from the mid 1700s to 1939.

Genealogy sources are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - GENEALOGY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Historical geography books can help you learn about Iowa territorial, state, and county boundaries.

One source that shows changes in Iowa state boundaries is:

Shambaugh, Benjamin Franklin. *Maps Illustrative of the Boundary History of Iowa*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah. 1976. (FHL film 989450 item 3; computer number 227699.) This book has several maps showing state boundaries but does not have maps showing county boundaries.

A valuable bibliography concerning early settlements and territorial jurisdictions is:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.)

To learn when a particular county was organized and from which county it was created, you may wish to consult:

Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources. (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.)

For historical geography books, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

Local history books for Iowa's counties, cities, and towns contain biographical and historical information. Some have information on families back to the 1600s. The information about individuals may include age, birth date, birthplace, county origins and boundaries, death information, divorce, ethnicity, historical background, immigration date, names of living relatives, wife's maiden name, marriage information, naturalization information, occupation, parents' names, childrens' names, names of other family members, place of previous residence, religion, and information about social activities.

The following important events in the history of Iowa affected political jurisdictions, record-keeping, and family movements.

- 1673 French explorers, Jolliet and Marquette, were in the region of Iowa.
- 1762 The land was ceded to Spain.
- 1788 The first white settlement (for lead mining) was established in Iowa, but it was abandoned in 1810.
- 1800 The land was returned to France.
- 1803 The United States acquired the area from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1803–32 The Iowa area remained Indian land and was not open to legal settlement.
- 1808 Fort Madison was built by the United States Army. Iowa's area was included in the Illinois Territory in 1808 and in the Missouri Territory in 1812 through 1821. It was not under any territorial government from 1821 to 1834.
- 1831 The Sauk and Fox Indian tribes moved to Iowa from Illinois.
- 1832 The Black Hawk War took place.
- 1833 The first permanent white settlements were made in eastern Iowa. Between 1833 and 1851 a series of treaties extinguished Indian claims to the land.
- 1834 Congress attached the area to the Michigan Territory.
- 1836 Iowa was transferred to the Wisconsin Territory.
- 1838 The Iowa Territory was established. It included all of present-day Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of North and South Dakota.
- 1846 Iowa, with its present boundaries, became a state.
- 1850–60 The population of Iowa nearly tripled as immigrants poured in from the older midwestern states and Europe.
- 1861–65 Over 75,000 Iowans served in the Union armed forces during the Civil War.
- 1867 The first railroad was built from the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs.
- 1873 Iowa, known as the Hawkeye State and the Corn
- 1893–1930s State, experienced financial depressions.

An especially helpful history of Iowa is:

Gue, Benjamin F. *History of Iowa from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*. 4 vols. New York: Century History Co., 1903. (FHL book 977.7 H2g; film 1036164 items 1-4; computer number 241545.)

An important bibliography that mentions books and articles about every major aspect of Iowa's history is:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.)

A bibliography of Iowa county histories is at the beginning of the following book:

Morford, Charles. *Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 D32m; computer number 14288.)

There is an unusual set of records dealing with Iowa's history from 1827 to 1857:

United States. Department of State. *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838-1852*. Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1601629-730; computer number 467370.) Many aspects of Iowa's state, local, and family histories are treated in these records. For example: military pension applications, military academy cadet applications, court records (1827-1845), land office records, Virginia warrant scrip, muster rolls giving enlistment town or city (1837-1857), military post records listing sick, wounded, and dead, Bureau of Indian Affairs records, Indian treaties, commissions for judges, marshals, attorneys, surveyors, and postmasters.

For two helpful bibliographies about Iowa historical topics, see the books by William Petersen and Patricia Dawson and David Hudson mentioned in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.

To find Iowa local histories, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - HISTORY

IOWA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY

IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - HISTORY

LAND AND PROPERTY

In the 1700s and early 1800s, the area that is now Iowa was under the control of France, then Spain, and again France. Many of the private land claims for that period have been published in the *American State Papers*. (See the references near the end of this section.)

In 1834 the area that is now Iowa was attached to the Michigan Territory, and in 1836 it was transferred to the Wisconsin Territory. The Iowa Territory was established in 1838. It included all of present-day Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of North and South Dakota. In 1846 Iowa, with its present boundaries, became a state.

Land records may supply the names and occupations of the seller and buyer, a description of the piece of land, the cost, witnesses' names, date of signing and recording, and names of persons who may be relatives. In homestead records, you may also find naturalization information. Other information may include:

- A deed often took the place of a will. A parent may have sold land to the children or to brothers or sisters. Brothers and sisters may all have signed a deed giving up their claim to property received from their parents.
- Deeds of sale often give the first name of the wife.
- The first deed in a new place may mention the previous county and town of residence.
- If a person has moved, the deed for their previous property may tell the new county of residence.
- Deeds often give the names of adjacent property owners, who might be family members.
- Land was often given to soldiers or their widows for military service.

Land Office Records

Iowa land office records began in 1838, when Iowa became a territory and land offices were established. Iowa was a public domain state in which land was surveyed and distributed to private owners through land offices. The federal government granted land through cash sales (entries), homesteads, and military bounty land warrants.

The private land claim records of Iowa (originally part of the Louisiana Purchase) are at the National Archives. Time periods and genealogical information vary. (For more information, refer to the heading Early Private Land Claims, 1700s-1837 later in this section.)

Abstracts of lands that were registered or sold at land offices from the late 1840s to 1859 are found in:

Iowa. Land Department. *Abstract of Lands in Iowa Counties which were Entered or Sold at the Land Offices*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023903-907; computer number 191586.) The original records are at the

State Historical Society in Des Moines. These abstracts give the township, range, section, part of section, number of acres and name of purchaser. They also sometimes give the date and county of residence. These abstracts are listed by county. There is no index on these films. (See the *United States Research Outline* for more information on federal land records.)

Homestead Grants

Many Iowa residents applied for homestead grants from 1862 to about 1910. Homestead records may contain a person's age, the previous place of residence, description of the land and cost. If the person was born abroad, the records may also contain a copy of naturalization proceedings and possibly a copy of a Union veteran's military discharge papers. The records may also mention the places the family has lived. See the *United States Research Outline* to learn how to obtain copies of these records.

The Family History Library has a card file on microfilm that indexes many pre-1098 land patents issued in Iowa:

United States, Bureau of Land Management. *Card Files*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, [19-]. (FHL films 1501522-681; computer number 547365.)

The Bureau of Land Management is also preparing a compact disc which indexes pre-1908 land patents for Iowa.

Iowa. Land Department. *Tract Books of Iowa Land Districts, 1838 to 1910*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011597-641; computer number 190065.) These records list the name of the purchaser, the date of purchase, the name of the person who patented the land, the patent date, and the number of acres. To use these records, you need to know the township, range and section where your ancestor's land was located. This information can be found in deed records or land ownership maps. (For more information, see the "Maps" section of this outline.)

Other Iowa Land Records

The Secretary of State's office in Des Moines has the following records, which are available on microfilm at the Family History Library:

Iowa. Land Department. *Des Moines River Lands, 1847 to 1904*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011643 item 3-1011661; computer number 190060.)

Iowa. Land Department. *Swamp Land Records, 1859 to 1921*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011642 and 1011664; computer number 190064.)

Iowa. Land Department. *School Land Grants, 1849 to 1917*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1012735 items 2-3, 1011643 item 4, 1011644 items 1-2, 1011645 items 2-3, 1011646-56, 1011662-3; computer number 191587.)

Iowa. Land Department. *Miscellaneous Land Records, 1839 to 1930*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011643-44, 1011665-67, and 1011671; computer number 190061.)

For further information about Iowa land records, the following publications are helpful:

Lokken, Roscoe L. *Iowa: Public Land Disposal*. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1942. (FHL book 977.7 R2L; film 1036183 item 2; computer number 242148.)

Swierenga, Robert P. *Pioneers and Profits: Land Speculation on the Iowa Frontier*. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1968. (FHL book 977.7 R21s; computer number 242149.)

For information about Virginia warrant scrip from 1831 to 1842, see the "History" section of this outline for the *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838-1852*.

County Records

After land was transferred from the government to private individuals, subsequent land transactions were usually recorded by the county recorder. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many counties' deeds and indexes, some homestead and mortgage records, and a few original entries. For example, from Polk County, the library has 112 microfilms of deeds and mortgages, dating from 1846 to 1910.

There is a valuable biographical collection about farm owners in Iowa whose farms remained within a family for 100 years or more:

Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. *Century Farm Applications*. (Cited fully in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.)

Early Private Land Claims, 1700s-1837

If your ancestor lived in the area that is now Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, or Louisiana before 1837, you might find land claims in the following volumes:

United States. Congress. *American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States*. La Crosse, Wis.: Brookhaven Press, 1959. 38 vols. (On 29 FHL films beginning with 1631827; classes 8 and 9 are also on films 899878-85; computer number 277508.) Volumes for classes 8 and 9 deal with public lands and claims for 1789 to 1837 and may name siblings or heirs of original claimants. Classes 8 and 9 have been republished in:

United States. Congress. *American State Papers, Class 8: Public Lands; Class 9: Claims: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States*. (FHL book 973R2ag 1994; computer number 617316.) This source and its accompanying index are cited fully in the "Land and Property" section of the *United States Research Outline*.

Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838-1852

For information about the *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838-1852*, see the end of the "History" section in this outline.

For more land records, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - LAND AND PROPERTY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY

MAPS

Several types of maps are useful for genealogists. Some give historical background of the area or show migration routes, such as roads, rivers, and railroads. Topographical maps show physical and man-made features, such as creeks, hills, roads, cemeteries, and churches. Plat and land ownership maps and other types of maps are described in the "Maps" section of the *United States Research Outline*. Many maps are in published atlases. In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, atlases are listed under "Maps."

Land Ownership and Plat Maps

Land ownership maps exist for certain Iowa counties from 1858 to 1900. These maps provide the name of the landowner and the names of the owners of adjacent land. There are 35 Iowa land ownership maps published from 1858 to 1900 on microfiche at the Family History Library in:

Library of Congress. Geography and Map Division. *Land Ownership Maps*. (FHL fiche 6079414-48 (Iowa); computer number 469740.) See the "Maps" section in the *United States Research Outline* for publication information.

County Atlases

Atlases for most Iowa counties begin about 1870 and may contain some biographical information about families in that county. Sometimes they include pictures of individuals and their homes and farms. Atlases and maps are both listed in the Family History Library Catalog under "Maps."

A few maps of early Mormon and other pioneer trails are available at the Family History Library.

The following statewide collections of maps may be helpful to you:

Andreas, A. T. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, 1875*. Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1875. (FHL film 966235 item 2 or film 980875 item 1; computer number 272841.)

Atlas of the State of Iowa. N.p.: Huebinger, 1904. (FHL film 966236; computer number 312239.)

Maps Taken from County Histories, etc. and Filed Separately at the Iowa State Historical Society. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL film 989450 item 8; computer number 227705.)

A valuable finding aid for Iowa maps is:

Cobb, David A. *Guide to U.S. Map Resources*. Chicago and London: American Library Association, 1986. (FHL book 973 E74co; computer number 412054.)

Also, the University of Iowa and Iowa State University have extensive map collections for the state.

Iowa maps and atlases are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - MAPS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - MAPS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U. S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) by the Family History Library provides information on federal military records. Many federal records also include information about soldiers and sailors from Iowa and should be used with the records listed in this section.

Iowa military records began about 1808, when Fort Madison was established. Military service records, such as enlistments, muster rolls, and discharges, may include a person's age, birth date, birthplace,

physical description, previous residence, and occupation.

The following book contains an extensive list of books and articles on pages 36–38 about the early forts and military expeditions in Iowa:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

Revolutionary War, 1775–1783

The following book contains information about Revolutionary War soldiers and their families:

Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots Buried in Iowa. Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth, 1978. (FHL book 977.7 D3d; computer number 242657.) This book was compiled by the Abigail Adams Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Des Moines, Iowa. It contains birth, marriage, and death information about soldiers, their parents, children, and grandchildren. About 42 veterans are listed.

War of 1812, 1812–1815

Iowa was not settled until after the War of 1812, but many men who fought in that war settled in Iowa. See the *U. S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for national indexes and records.

For a listing of 31 veterans of the War of 1812 who lived in Iowa in 1886, see pages 733–734 in the following book:

Iowa. Adjutant General's Office. *List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, Living in Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa: G. E. Roberts, State Printer, 1886. (FHL book 977.7 M22ig; film 982150; computer number 281796.) This book lists men living in Iowa in 1886 who served in the War of 1812 and later wars. It also gives each man's name, rank, state from which he served, and sometimes, the company or regiment in which he served.

Early Records Beginning with 1837

For the earliest Iowa military records, beginning about 1837 with muster rolls and military post records, see the *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838–1852*, which is mentioned in the “History” section of this outline.

Mexican War, 1846–1848

The book mentioned above, *List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, Living in Iowa*, pages 734–751, lists 34 men from Iowa who served in the War with Mexico and who were living in Iowa in

1886. Hundreds of men from other states who served in the war are also listed by the state from which they served. In addition, each man's name, rank, regiment, company, and post office address are listed.

A roster of Iowa troops in the War with Mexico (including the Mormon Battalion), Indian campaigns, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and the Philippine War are found in:

Iowa, Adjutant General's Office. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*. (Cited fully in the “Civil War” section of this outline.)

Additional Mormon Battalion sources include:

United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the Mexican War in Mormon Organizations*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M0351. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1961. (FHL films 471465 and 471517–18; computer number 279699.) These records are alphabetical by the name of the soldier and contain abstracts from company muster rolls and returns.

Tyler, Daniel. *A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War, 1846–1847*. Waynesboro, Va.: M & R Books, 1964. (FHL book 973 M2td; film 928153 item 5; computer number 271195.)

Larson, Carl V., comp. and ed. *A Database of the Mormon Battalion: An Identification of the Original Members of the Mormon Battalion*. Providence, Utah: Keith W. Watkins and Sons, 1987. (FHL book 973 M2Lar; film 1592751 item 5; computer number 461971.) A second edition was published in 1997 (FHL 973 M2lar 1997; computer number 821627.) The soldiers are listed alphabetically, and the book provides birth date, birthplace, parents' names, spouse's name, marriage date, death date and place, place of burial, service records, pension records, and sometimes, physical description.

United States. Bureau of Pensions. *Selected Pension Applications Files for Members of the Mormon [sic] Battalion, Mexican War, 1846–48*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Record Service, 1934. (FHL films 480129–49; computer number 110863.) The files are generally in alphabetical order.

Civil War, 1861–65

Iowa provided over 76,000 troops to the Civil War, of which 13,000 died. An index to the compiled military service records is:

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Iowa*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M0541. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1964. (FHL films 881808–36; computer number 279543.) This index lists each soldier's name, company, unit, rank in, and rank out. There are also references to service in other units. The actual service records have not been filmed and are available only at the National Archives.

For lists of the soldiers by regiment, see volumes 1–5 of the following:

Iowa. Adjutant General's Office. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion: Together with Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations, 1861–1866*. 6 vols. Des Moines, Iowa: E. H. English, 1908–1911. (FHL book 977.7 M2i; films 987646–50; computer number 100011.) This book provides each soldier's name, rank, and often the date and place he was mustered out. The soldiers are listed by company but not alphabetically. Volume 6 has names of soldiers from later wars, as well. An index to the six volumes is found in:

Index to Iowa Soldiers. 7 vols. N.p.: Idaho State Historical Society Genealogical Library, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 M2i index; film 1033761 items 3–9; fiche 6051153; computer number 5766.)

For a list of the Civil War soldiers living in Iowa in 1886, see the book, *List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, Living in Iowa*, mentioned previously. The Civil War soldiers are listed by the state from which they served, then by their regiment and then alphabetically.

After the Civil War, veterans formed the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). At its peak in the 1890s, the GAR had posts and members throughout Iowa. Post records give the name, birth date, birthplace (town and state), war record (regiment, enlistment date, date mustered out), wife's name and sometimes, the names and residences of children and parents. For the index and post records, see:

Iowa. Grand Army of the Republic. *Grand Army of the Republic Records, ca. 1800–1962*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978, 1987. (On 69 FHL films beginning with 1487370; computer number 238654.) The index cards generally provide the name of the person, his company and regiment, the state from which he served in the Civil War, and the number and city of the GAR post where he was listed. Often the cards also give the exact birth date, county of birth, exact death date and place, name and

location of cemetery, and parents' names. The forms are on microfilm, are listed by county, and often name the parents, spouse, and children. The original records are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines.

Three guidebooks to Iowa Civil War information are:

Meyer, Steve. *Discovering Your Iowa Civil War Ancestry*. Garrison, Iowa: Meyer Pub., 1993. (FHL book 977.7 M2ms; computer number 714016.)

Robertson, James J. Jr. *Iowa in the Civil War: A Reference Guide*. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 197–. (FHL book 977.7A1 no. 40; fiche 6049713; computer number 150168.) This book mentions articles, reports, histories, letters, and diaries that have been published about the different regiments that were in the Civil War.

Stuart, Addison A. *Iowa Colonels and Regiments: Being a History of Iowa Regiments in the War of the Rebellion and Containing a Description of the Battles in Which They Fought*. Des Moines, Iowa: Mills, 1865. (FHL book 977.7 M2s; film 1036165; computer number 242143.)

Spanish-American War, 1898, and Philippine Insurrection, 1898–1902

For published rosters of those who served in these conflicts, see pages 275–782 in volume six of:

Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion. (FHL film 390835; computer number 100011.) (Cited fully under the heading Civil War in this outline.)

World War I, 1917–1918

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45, may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Iowa see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Iowa, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M1509. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 96 FHL films beginning with 1642846; computer number 756743.) To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged by county, by draft board within the county, and alphabetically. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several.

Military Discharge Records, 1860s–1950s

The Family History Library has microfilms of county military discharge records for men and women who served in the Civil War and in later wars (to the 1950s). These records are filed by the county where the soldier took the discharge papers to be recorded. They usually give the soldier's name, the town and state of birth, age or exact birth date, date and place of enlistment, occupation, extensive military service history and physical description.

Militia Records, 1860s–1900s

The Iowa Adjutant General's Office kept lists of men between the ages of 18 and about 50 from each county, who were subject to military (militia) service. These lists began in the Civil War and continued into the early 1900s. The lists are available for each county and are often arranged by township. They contain names, ages, and sometimes occupations. The original lists are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines. Microfilm copies are at the Family History Library:

Iowa. Adjutant-General's Office. *Persons Subject to Military Duty, ca. 1862-1910*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 94 FHL films beginning with 1024847; computer number 185691.) The records are arranged by county and then by year.

For information on Iowa Veterans buried out of state, see the "Cemeteries" section of this outline.

National Guard Application Forms, 1870–1920

The Iowa Genealogical Society is preparing an index to National Guard application forms from 1872 to 1920. The forms contain the name of the National Guard member, birthplace, birth date or age, residence, and physical description. By the end of 1998 the index to names A–H had been completed. The society hopes to complete the index in 1999 or 2000. The original application forms are at the address below.

Location of Original Records

Records of Iowa soldiers who served in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I or the Iowa National Guard are at:

Records Center
7700 N. W. Beaver Drive
Johnston, IA 50131
Telephone: 515-252-4329

Copies of the records are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines.

Military records for Iowa are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - MILITARY RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS

MINORITIES

Immigrants began to settle in Iowa around 1833. The Family History Library has many books about the different ethnic groups that settled in Iowa, including Amish, Danish, Dutch, German, and Swedish immigrants. These books may contain biographical information about individuals, groups that immigrated together, and ministers who immigrated with members of their church congregation.

An excellent bibliography about the different immigrant groups is:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.)

Dawson, Patricia and David Hudson. *Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published Between 1952 and 1986*. (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.)

There were relatively few African Americans in Iowa before the Civil War. For a list of books and articles about slavery in early Iowa, see pages 5–6 of:

Robertson, James J. Jr. *Iowa in the Civil War: A Reference Guide*. Iowa City, Iowa: The State Historical Society of Iowa, 197- (FHL book 977.7 A1 no. 40; fiche 6049713; computer number 150168.)

For books about ethnic groups, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - MINORITIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MINORITIES

NATIVE RACES

Among the major American Indian tribes that lived in what is now Iowa were the Sauk (or Sac) and Fox tribes. Events in their history include:

1665–1712 Three relatively small tribes (including the Sauk and the Fox) failed to overcome the French and allied Indians; they then fled to central Wisconsin.

1728 A series of attacks nearly destroyed the remaining Fox tribe.

1832 Fox survivors moved southward into Iowa and aligned with the Sauk in the Black Hawk

War. The Sauk and Fox tribes merged and were forced to move into Kansas by a U.S. government proclamation. Later the Fox tribe returned to Iowa and lived on a settlement tract of 80 acres that they had purchased.

The following are examples of available records:

Indian (Sac & Fox) Census of Iowa, ca. 1836-1840. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1022202 item 4; computer number 1110.)

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs. *Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940.* Washington, D.C., 1965. (FHL films 581444-446; computer number 77106.) These rolls include the Sauk and Fox tribal rolls from 1888 to 1939. Film 581446 includes births and deaths from 1924 to 1932.

Annuity Payroll of the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa, Sept. 15, 1910. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL film 0989445 item 12; computer number 74263.) This record serves as a partial census for this tribe.

For further information on American Indians, see:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide.* (Cited fully in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.) Pages 22-31 list books and articles about the various American Indian tribes, agents, treaties, and the half-breed tract in Iowa.

To find American Indian records in the Family History Library Catalog look in the Subject Search under the name of the tribe, such as:

FOX INDIANS
POTAWATOMI INDIANS
SAUK INDIANS

You can also look in the Locality Search under:

IOWA - NATIVE RACES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NATIVE RACES

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization proceedings in Iowa are handled primarily by district courts. These records include declarations of intention, petitions for naturalization, and certificates of naturalization and citizenship (also called final orders or final papers). Naturalization records may give a person's age, country or city of origin, date of arrival, port of arrival, and names of witnesses. After September 1906, the records may also give birth date and birthplace, names of spouse and children (with their birth dates and birthplaces),

and name of the ship. Naturalization papers may be included with homestead land applications. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the district court records for most Iowa counties. For Polk County, for instance, the library has naturalization applications and military petitions from 1907 to 1927 and an index to the records from 1852 to 1884:

Iowa. District Court (Polk County). *Naturalization Records, 1907-1927.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1015201-17 item 2; computer number 190612.)

Iowa. District Court. (Polk County). *Index to Naturalization, 1852-1884.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL film 1015217 item 1; computer number 192115.)

The following district court index can be a useful source:

United States. District Court (Iowa: Central Division). *General Index to Declaration of Intentions and Petitions, 1909-1948; Declaration of Intentions, 1917-1936; Petitions, 1909-1936.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1769765 item 12; computer number 709141.)

The National Archives-Central Plains Region (Kansas City, Missouri) has the records of the U.S. District Court in Keokuk for 1853 to 1874. These records are available on film:

List of Persons Naturalized, 1853-1874. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1973. (FHL film 928522 item 8; fiche 6046977; computer number 286156.)

The index below includes naturalization petitions from 44 counties of eastern Iowa:

United States. District Court (Illinois: Northern District). *Soundex Index to Naturalization Petitions for U.S. District & Circuit Courts, Northern District of Illinois and Immigration and Naturalization Service District 9, 1840-1950.* National Archives Microfilm Publication; M1285. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1432001-183; computer number 161074.) The Family History Library Catalog entry alphabetically lists the Iowa counties in this collection, all of which were formerly in Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) District 9.

For records of naturalizations after September 1906, contact the National Archives-Central Plains Region (Kansas City, Missouri) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. See the *United States Research Outline* for details.

Naturalization records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - NATURALIZATION AND
CITIZENSHIP
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NATURALIZATION
AND CITIZENSHIP
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -
NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

NEWSPAPERS

Iowa newspapers have been published since 1836 and can provide valuable information for family historians. They publish notices of marriage, divorce, death, funerals and probate matters. Since about 1880 they may also publish birth notices. Notices include the names of the persons involved, dates, and places. Marriage and death notices may contain maiden names, names of parents, and names of other living relatives. There are also social columns that tell of local events and visiting persons. Also, they often tell about marriages and who attended them (especially for prominent families). There may be engagement announcements and notices of 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries.

Legal notices, such as the settlement of estates, appointment of guardians, filing of divorces, coroner inquests, delinquent tax lists, and other legal advertising, can be of great help, especially if a fire destroyed the records in the courthouse. Newspapers also include local and national news and advertisements for commodities and services.

The State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City has a vast collection of newspapers. A guide to locating newspapers is:

United States Newspaper Project. *A Bibliography of Iowa Newspapers, 1836-1976*. Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Department, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 B33b; film 1033840 item 7; computer number 93532.)

The Family History Library collects indexes and abstracts of newspaper records but does not have original newspapers from Iowa.

Newspapers are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog:

IOWA - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NEWSPAPERS

OBITUARIES

Obituaries, or death notices, have been published in Iowa since the 1800s. Obituaries may provide such information as the age of the deceased, birth date, birthplace (including town and country of birth), names of parents and siblings, name of spouse, names and residences of living children, death date, cause of death, place of burial, maiden name, and occupation. Previously deceased family members are frequently mentioned as well. Obituaries may occasionally indicate previous places of residence, immigration information, religion, and organizations to which the deceased belonged.

The "Obituaries" and "Newspapers" sections of the *United States Research Outline* list sources for finding obituaries and the newspapers that published them.

The Family History Library has two large alphabetical collections of Iowa obituaries. The original collections are at the Iowa Genealogical Society, where most of the obituaries were collected. These obituaries date from about 1850 to 1991. These collections are:

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa).
Iowa Obituaries, 1860-1982. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 101 FHL films beginning with 1487572 item 3; computer number 536965.)

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa).
Obituary Cards, 1850-1991. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (On 87 FHL films beginning with 1766206 item 2; computer number 651877.)

Obituary notices are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - OBITUARIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - OBITUARIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - OBITUARIES
IOWA - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NEWSPAPERS

PERIODICALS

Family history periodicals contain much information. They often publish sources pertaining to their county or region. These sources may include genealogies, historical background, maps, information about local records and archives, queries, census records, transcripts of family Bibles, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, obituaries, and wills. The Family History Library has copies of many periodicals, but some issues may be missing.

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines for Iowa research are listed below. Many of them have indexes either published separately or included in each volume.

The Annals of Iowa. 1893–. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline above for the address). (FHL book 977.3 B2i; some volumes and an index to volumes 1–8 are on 6 FHL films beginning with 967572 item 20; computer number 207855.) This periodical contains much biographical and historical information and has cumulative indexes through 1991.

The Cedar Tree. 1971–. Published by the Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society, 503 South St., Waterloo, IA 50701. (FHL book 977.73 D25c; computer number 223008.)

The Genie Bug. 1969–. Published by the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 237, Mason City, IA 50401 (FHL book 977.7 D25g; film 1697449 items 1–6 [vols. 1–6]; computer number 301825.) This includes lists of surnames being searched by society members.

Hawkeye Heritage. 1966–. Published by the Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322-7735. (FHL book 977.7 D25h; vols. 1–3 on film 928164 items 2–4; vols. 4–5 on film 893705; vols. 6–10 and topical index [vols. 1–10] on film 928349 items 1–6; computer number 212012.) An index to volumes 1–28 has recently been published. (FHL book 977.7 D25h index; computer number 212012.)

Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter. 1980–. Published by the Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322. (FHL book 977.7 D25n; computer number 161160.)

Iowa Queries. 1987–. Published by Shirley Penna-Oakes, P.O. Box 397, Black Eagle, WY 59414-0397. (FHL book 977.7 D2iq; fiche 6126472, vols. 1–5; computer number 484173.) This query periodical merged with another and is now *Ohio-Indiana-Iowa Queries and Reviews*.

The Palimpsest. 1920–. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City (see the “Archives and Libraries” section in this outline for the address). (FHL book 977.7 B2p; films 1697369 items 1–9 [vol. 2] and 823597 item 11 [vol. 3]; computer number 225549.) There are cumulative indexes at the Family History Library for 1920–1929, 1930–1939, 1940–1976: (FHL book 977.7 B2p index; computer numbers 399174, 399475, and 399476.) This periodical is now called *Iowa Heritage Illustrated*.

The Waukaw. 1981–. Published by the Woodbury County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 624, 3412 Old Lakesport Rd., Sioux City, IA 51102. (FHL book 977.7 D25w; computer number 295531.) This periodical includes Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

The *PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)* partially indexes all the above periodicals (except *Iowa Queries*) and more. The compact disc and Internet editions are about twice the size of the microfiche edition available at most Family History Centers. *PERSI* is described in greater detail in the “Periodicals” section of the *United States Research Outline*.

Periodicals are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - PERIODICALS
IOWA - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
IOWA - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY -
PERIODICALS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY -
PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

Iowa probate records date from about 1834, when the first county in the state was created. Probate records are an important source for family history research and are one of the best ways to link individuals to their parents, children and sometimes to brothers, sisters, and grandchildren. They may not give an exact death date, but you can assume the death generally occurred within a few months of the date of probate. Wills usually mention the names of heirs and frequently specify how those heirs are related. Names of children may be given, as well as married names of daughters. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information about probate records.

A probate court was created in each county when Iowa became an organized territory. These courts were responsible for settling estates. Probate courts were eventually discontinued, and probate matters have since been the responsibility of the district courts. Before 1887 some probate cases were settled in circuit courts and from 1851 to 1868, some in county courts. Probate records may include guardianship records.

You can write to the clerk of the district court for copies of wills, administrations, dockets, calendars, and other records.

The Family History Library has microfilm and microfiche copies of many probate records, including some will records as late as the 1970s and indexes to the 1990s.

Probate records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - PROBATE RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS

PUBLIC RECORDS

Many records created by local and state governments do not fit into the topics listed in this outline. These include records of: state licensing and certification bureaus, mayors, commissioners and overseers of the poor. Some collections that contain a variety of records, such as land, history, tax and court records, may be classified as public records.

Public records kept by the County Board of Supervisors in Iowa began about 1838. These records have been important public records from 1838 to the present. These boards supervise the establishment, drainage, alteration, and vacating of roads; take care of the blind, elderly and poor; levy taxes for county and school purposes; and set salaries for the county clerk and sheriff. The Family History Library has some of these records on microfilm.

Some types of Iowa county public records are described in:

Dolan, John P., and Lisa Lacher. *Guide to the Public Records of Iowa Counties*. Des Moines, Iowa: Connie Wimer, 1986. (FHL book 977.7 D27d; computer number 544892.) This guide lists many resources for 20th-century research.

Public records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - PUBLIC RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - PUBLIC RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - PUBLIC RECORDS

SCHOOLS

Iowa school records date from the 1830s to the present. School records, such as school censuses, may list parents and their children, with the ages and birthplaces of the children.

Many school records are preserved at the Iowa Area Education Agencies, each of which keeps the school records for several school districts. Many of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library, such as:

Cedar County Iowa, School Records, 1837-1949. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976, 1990. (On 6 FHL films beginning with 985411 item 2; computer number 320946.) These include registers of parents and guardians from

1865 to 1886; school registers from 1868 to 1892; and school records and school censuses from 1837 to 1944.

School records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - SCHOOLS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - SCHOOLS

SOCIETIES

There are many societies which may help family historians. Genealogical, historical, lineage, veterans, and ethnic societies are especially helpful because of the records and resources they collect, transcribe, and publish. Often their records contain birth, marriage, death, and biographical information. See the "Societies" section in the *United States Research Outline* for more information.

Genealogical and historical societies often maintain a genealogical file for families in the area and may sponsor publications, some of which are cited in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

Lineage societies, such as the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Colonial Dames, General Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, and many others, require members to prove they are descended from certain people, such as colonists or soldiers. The applications for membership in these societies are preserved, and many are on microfilm at the Family History Library. See the *Register of U. S. Lineage Societies* (mentioned in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline*) for addresses, lists of microfilmed records, and publications.

One important society in Iowa is the Iowa Genealogical Society (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline). The Iowa Genealogical Society has a number of chapters throughout the state. Many chapters actively extract and index original records, which the society publishes. For a list of the society chapters, see:

Mary Keysor Meyer's *Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada*. (Cited fully in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline*.) The directory lists ethnic genealogical groups and societies.

See the "Author/Title Search" of the Family History Library Catalog for many sources published by the Iowa Genealogical Society. There are, for example, birth, marriage, death and cemetery records; censuses (state and federal); newspaper obituaries; probates;

city directories; adoption records; county assessors' books; indexes to scrapbooks; and church records.

Old Settlers' Associations existed in many Iowa counties. Some of these records, with obituaries, are available on microfilm, such as:

Old Settlers' Association (Cedar County, Iowa). *Annual Meeting Minutes and Obituaries of Settlers, 1917-1934*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL film 987411 or 281275; computer number 312516.)

See also the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for other organizations with family history sources.

Society records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - SOCIETIES
IOWA - [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES

TAXATION

In Iowa tax records have been kept since 1834, when the first county was formed. Tax lists are often used as substitutes for missing census records. They are especially valuable because they are usually taken each year. They start about the time a county was created and records are generally kept in the county seat. They may include poll tax records, railroad tax books, taxable land lists, records of delinquent taxes, and road tax books. Some tax lists have been microfilmed and are at the Family History Library.

Tax lists for Civil War times are found in:

United States. Bureau of Internal Revenue. *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Iowa, 1862-1866*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M0766. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1534648-63; computer number 463755.) The records are arranged by districts. The taxes were levied on carriages, billiard tables, gold and silver plate (dishware), income in excess of \$600, and some inheritance of personal property. The state was divided into six districts, which are described in the Family History Library Catalog.

From mid-March 1934 to 1936, an Old Age Assistance Tax was levied. These tax records often provide the person's birth date and birthplace and full names of the parents (including the wife's maiden name). The persons listed were born between the 1850s and 1914. The lists only include persons who owned real estate or taxable personal property. The following source is an example of the records available:

Wayne County (Iowa). County Recorder. *Old Age Assistance Records, 1934-1936*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1653885-88; computer number 574912.) The records are alphabetical.

Taxation records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - TAXATION
IOWA, [COUNTY] - TAXATION

VITAL RECORDS

County Records of Births and Deaths

A few counties in Iowa began to register vital statistics during the 1870s, but most county records began in 1880, when a state law took effect requiring counties to register births and deaths. This law was generally complied with by 1924. In the 1940s, many people applied for delayed birth certificates in order to be eligible for Social Security benefits.

Births

Birth records contain much information for family historians. Because births are recorded near the time of the event, they are considered a primary source. In birth records, you generally find the date and place of birth; name and sex of the child; name, residence, race, age, birthplace, and occupation of the father and mother; the mother's maiden name; number of children born to the mother; number of living children; and physician's certificate.

Deaths

Death records are also a valuable source. Often, they give: date, place, and cause of death, name, residence, sex, race, marital status, age, occupation and birth place of the deceased, date and place of burial, name and birth place of father, and maiden name and birth place of mother.

These birth and death records are maintained by the clerk of the district court of the respective county. The Family History Library has some county birth and death records on microfilm to the early 1940s.

State Records of Births and Deaths

The state has copies of birth records beginning in July 1880 and copies of death records beginning in January 1891. Copies are available to immediate family members only. You will need to state your relationship to the individual whose record you want and the reason you want the information. To request copies or information about fees and restrictions, contact:

Iowa Department of Public Health
Vital Records Bureau
Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075
Telephone: 515-281-4944
Fax: 515-281-4529
Internet address: www.idph.state.ia.us/pa/vr.htm

The current fees for this service are listed in:

Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces. 19th ed. Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993. (FHL book 973 V24wv; computer number 185507.) Copies are at the Family History Library and at the Family History Centers.

Coroner's Records

Coroners investigated deaths that were not attended by a physician and determined the cause of the death. The coroner of each county kept records of his findings. Some of these records began as early as 1855. The County Coroner's Office was established by the Iowa State Constitution. The coroner's records may provide the name of the deceased person, his or her age, the cause of death, the parents' names, and circumstances of the death. Some of these records are available at the Family History Library. One example is:

Clayton County (Iowa). Coroner. *Coroner's Reports, 1855-1959*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (On 5 FHL films beginning with 1671795; computer number 576853.)

Marriage

Iowa county marriage records have been kept since about 1835. These marriage records may provide names, ages, races, residences, occupations, birthplaces, maiden name of wife, marriage date and place, parents' names, and the name of person who performed the marriage. Some certificates give the number of times the groom has been married.

You may obtain copies of the original records by contacting the clerk of the district court in the county where the license was issued. Many marriage records have been transcribed and published by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and other organizations. See the Bible Records section of this outline for information on the DAR collection.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of marriage records from many counties, such as:

Scott County (Iowa). Clerk of the District Court. *Marriage Records, 1830-1956; Index, 1838-1860*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society

of Utah, 1976, 1986, 1992. (On 57 FHL films beginning with 104414; computer number 296059.)

Two partial indexes list early records of marriages in 39 Iowa counties. These indexes are:

Iowa Marriages, Early to 1850: A Research Tool. Orem, Utah: Liahona Research, Inc., 1990. (FHL book 977.7 V22i; computer number 599839.)

Marriage Records Early-1850. Orem, Utah. Automated Archives, 1992. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 227; computer number 683380.) This disc also contains marriages in Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas.

The following book indexes marriages in 24 counties:

Fretwell, Shela S. *Iowa Marriages Before Statehood, 1835-1846*. Waterloo, Iowa: n.p., 1985. (FHL book 977.7 V2f; computer number 391698.)

Records of 11 counties are given in the following collection:

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Marriages, ca. 1844-1900*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1023609 items 11-21; computer number 190896.) Contains marriage abstracts and newspaper marriage notices for Buena Vista, Chickasaw, Des Moines, Floyd, Freemont, Greene, Mills, Osceola, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, and Story Counties.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (address earlier in this section) has copies of marriage records from July 1880. They have an index to records after 1916.

Divorce Records

For divorce records, see the "Divorce Records" section in this outline.

Inventory of Vital Records

For more information about the history and availability of vital records in Iowa up to 1941, see:

Guide to Public Vital Statistics in Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 977.7 V2h; film 908988; computer number 242658.)

Birth, marriage, death, and coroner's records and indexes for most Iowa counties are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - VITAL RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - VITAL
RECORDS

OTHER RECORDS

Other types of records not mentioned in this outline may help you learn more about your ancestors from Iowa. These record types (topics) are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the place and topic. Some additional topics that might be useful are:

- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- CHURCH HISTORY
- FUNERAL HOMES
- SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS
- VOTING REGISTERS

FOR FURTHER READING

You may wish to consult the following sources for more information about Iowa:

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1952. (FHL book 977.7 A3p; computer number 241027.) This bibliography includes sections about American Indians, immigration, land, government, courts, military, schools, churches, businesses, history, and biographies. It is arranged by subject and has an index.

Dawson, Patricia and David Hudson. *Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published Between 1952 and 1986*. Ames, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1986. (FHL book 977.7 H23d; computer number 523059.) This book supplements the book mentioned above. For a supplement covering 1987-1991, see the *Annals of Iowa* (1993).

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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USA

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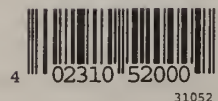
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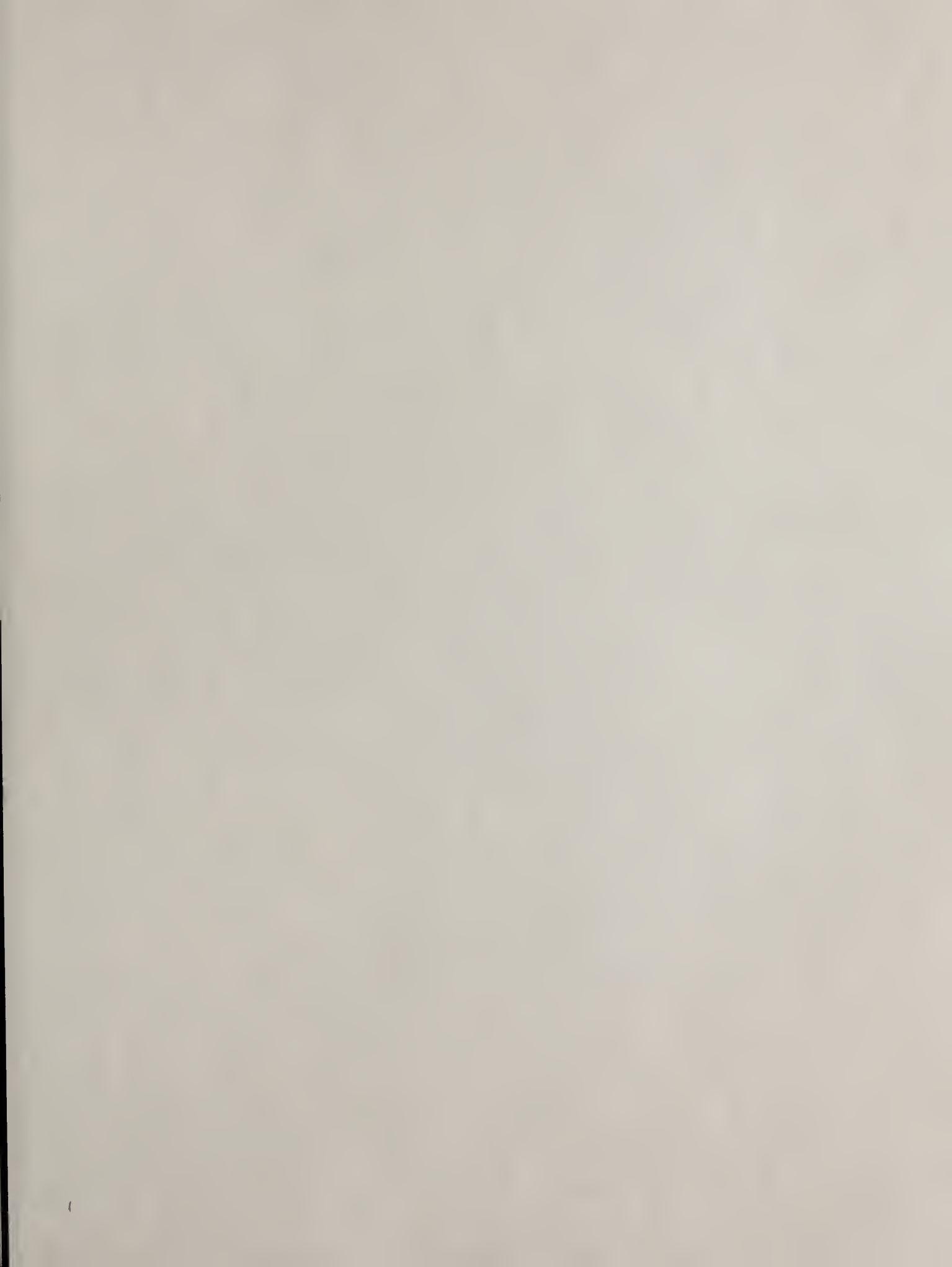
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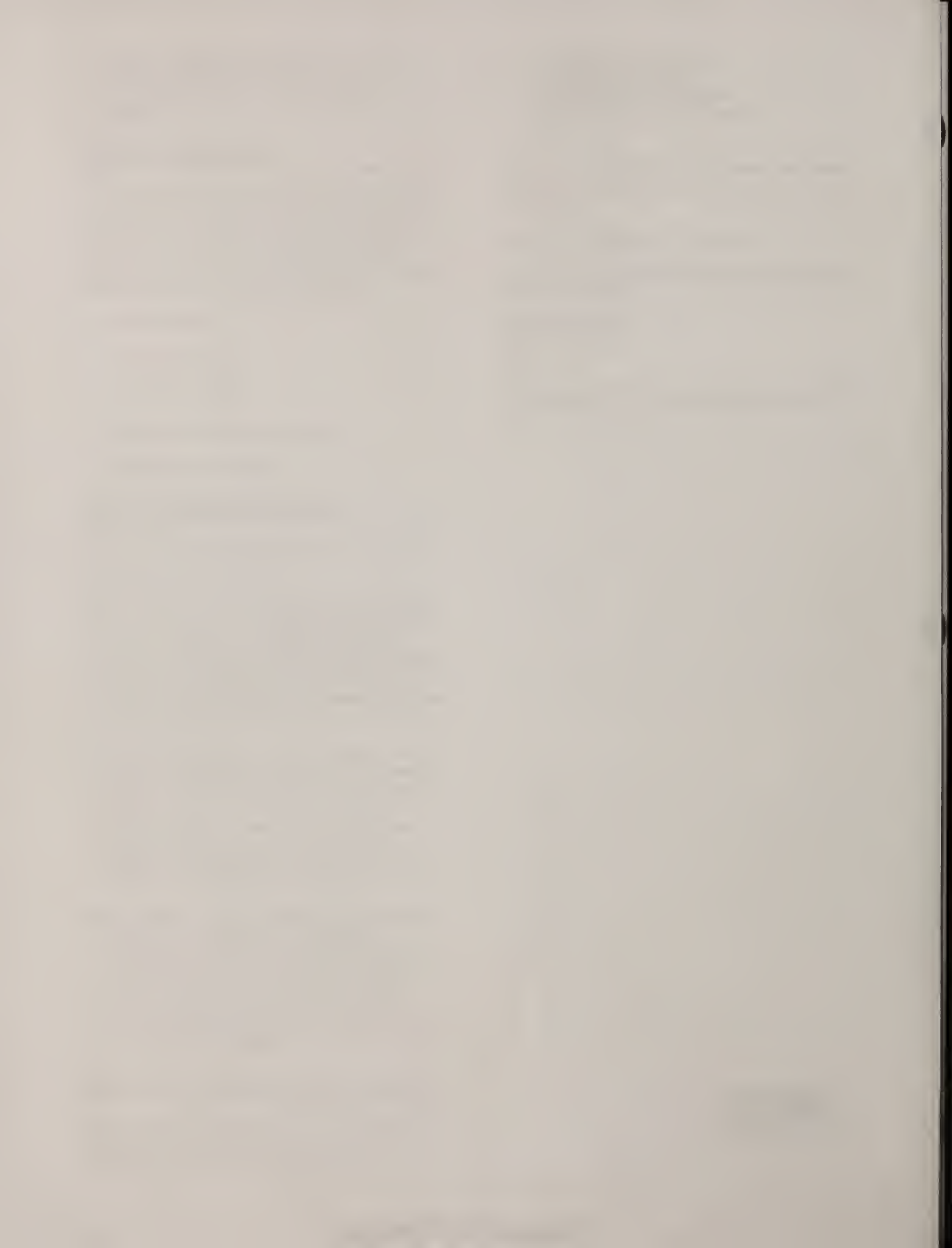
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